

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
	:	
	:	
JOY ANNE VINCENT, RN	:	
License # 26NR10348400	:	FINAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
	:	
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Joy Anne Vincent ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse (RN) in the State of New Jersey, and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On November 20, 2014, a letter issued on behalf of the Board, asking Respondent to provide certificates of completion for all nursing continuing education credits earned during the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 licensing cycle.

3. Respondent provided documentation of completion of a total of 19.99 contact hours of qualifying nursing continuing education timely completed during the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 licensing cycle. In addition, Respondent was able to document at least 11 contact hours of qualifying nursing continuing education completed subsequent to May 31, 2014.

4. Ms. Vincent indicated on her 2014 renewal application that she would have completed all required nursing continuing education for the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 licensing cycle by May 31, 2014.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Respondent's failure to timely complete required nursing continuing education to be attributed to the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 licensing cycle constitutes a violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, subjecting Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's indication on the 2014 renewal application that she would have completed all required continuing education for the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 licensing cycle by May 31,

2014 constitutes misrepresentation in violation of N.J.S.A.  
45:1-21(b) .

#### DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline seeking a reprimand and a two hundred and fifty dollar (\$250) civil penalty was entered on July 1, 2015. Copies were served upon Respondent via regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the thirtieth day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated findings of fact and conclusions of law by setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order of Discipline and maintained that she had a habit of submitting all her certificates of completion to her former employer's ED nurse educator to be placed in her employee file, whether those certificates were earned at the employer's facility or elsewhere. Respondent requested copies of the certificates in her employee file, but was unsuccessful. Respondent also maintained that she kept copies of all certificates that she

earned in separate folders according to the year that they were earned. Respondent has been unable to locate her file for year 2012.

In cases of lost or missing certificates of completion, continuing education providers will readily provide duplicate certificates. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3, nurses are required to maintain documentation of completion of continuing education and submit such documentation to the Board upon request. Respondent failed to do so and as such, has failed to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that she completed the required continuing education for the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 biennial period. Respondent may apply 10.01 of the hours completed after May 31, 2014 to cure the deficiency of the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 biennial period, but those same hours may not also be applied to satisfy the requirements of the current biennial period.

The Board reviewed Respondent's submissions and determined that further proceedings were not necessary. The Board was not persuaded that the submitted materials merited further consideration. Respondent failed to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, completion of 30 hours of continuing education within the June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014 biennial period. As such, the civil penalty is warranted for failing to timely complete required continuing education. Additionally, a

reprimand is warranted for Respondent's answer on her renewal whereby she certified that she had timely completed all required continuing education when she is unable to provide documentation thereof.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2016,  
ORDERED that:

1. A reprimand is hereby imposed upon Respondent for the violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b).

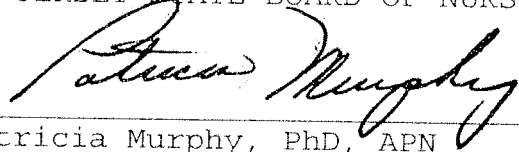
2. A civil penalty in the amount of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) is hereby imposed for Respondent's failure to timely complete nursing continuing education. Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to State Board of Nursing, Attention: Leslie Burgos, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than twenty-one (21) days after the date of filing of this Final Order of Discipline. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

3. Continuing education completed after May 31, 2014 and applied to cure the deficiency of the previous biennial period

(10.01 contact hours) shall not also be used to satisfy the requirements of the current biennial period.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia Murphy", written over a horizontal line.

Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN  
Board President